

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 15, 2008. All objections and rejections are respectively traversed.

Claims 77-110 are currently pending.

Claims 104-110 are added.

Request for Examiner Interview

The Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview with the Examiner after the Examiner has had an opportunity to consider this Amendment, but before issuance of the next Office Action. The Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at 617-951-2500.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 77-81, 83, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90-94, 93, 98, 99, 101, 102, and 103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Chu et al., US Patent No. 6,346,954, hereinafter Chu, in view of Pisello et al., US Patent No. 5,678,042, hereinafter Pisello, and in further view of Manghirmalani et al., US Patent No. 5,819,028, hereinafter Manghirmalani.

The present invention, as set forth in representative claim 77, comprises in part:

77. A method for managing a computer network, comprising:
operating a plurality of servers connected to the network, each server of the plurality of servers connected to one or more storage devices;
organizing a plurality of volumes across the plurality of servers, wherein each volume is a logical arrangement of the one or more storage devices connected to a particular server;
consolidating two or more selected volumes of the plurality of volumes into a group of volumes using a graphical user interface,

wherein at least two volumes in the group of volumes are located on separate servers of the plurality of servers;

identifying a party interested in statistical information related to operation of the group of volumes using the graphical user interface;
polling all volumes within the group of volumes, by a monitoring process, for statistical information;

displaying, on the graphical user interface, statistical information relating only to the group of volumes;

comparing the monitored statistical information to a threshold value to determine whether an event has occurred; and
in response to determining that an event has occurred, notifying the interested party.

Chu discloses a computer “for managing a RAID system that may have a number of drive arrays, each array including multiple disk drives.” (See Chu, Col. 1, Lines 30-35; Col. 6, Lines 33-34; and Fig. 3). Specifically, “there is a depicted array A frame 90 in a graphical user interface which provides an iconic representation of the data storage array A in response to user selections.” (See Chu, Col. 8, Lines 46-49; and Fig. 6). In Fig. 6, array A frame 90 graphically displays an iconic representation of data storage array A including five physical drives ID1, ID2, ID3, ID4, and ID5 connected to a computer selected by the user. (See Chu, Col. 8, Lines 50-54).

Pisello discloses a system and method for “providing a network management system having virtual catalog overview function for viewing of files distributively stored across a network domain.” (See Pisello, Col. 4, Lines 32-34). Specifically, the domain administrative server “snapshot collector 150.21 periodically scans the network and retrieves from the respective field exchange agents 119d-149d a respective set of standardized infrastructure status reports. (See Pisello, Col. 25, Lines 60-63). A reason for “maintaining asset management information within the infrastructure snapshots 150.11 is for purposes of performance evaluation.” (See Pisello, Col. 26, Lines 24-26). Thus, “when the network is expanded or the problematic equipment is replaced, the *system administrators* have an idea of which brands of equipment should be avoided and which should be preferred on a price/performance basis.” (See Pisello, Col. 26, Lines 35-28).

Additionally, a set of rules determine when to send an alert to a human administrator. (See Pisello, Col. 27, Lines 10-37).

Manghirmalani discloses a network arrangement with a plurality of computers connected to concentrators and the concentrators connected to a central management computer. An agent running on each concentrator collects data as specified from the program and sends the data to the central management computer. The central management computer graphically displays the data to a human operator, where data is shown in meters with red, yellow, and green areas. The red, yellow, and green areas have set ranges but the ranges can be modified using the graphical display.

Applicant respectfully urges that Chu, Pisello, and Manghirmalani, taken alone or in any combination, do not teach or suggest Applicant's claimed novel *consolidating two or more selected volumes of the plurality of volumes into a group of volumes using a graphical user interface, wherein at least two volumes in the group of volumes are located on separate servers of the plurality of servers, ... displaying, on the graphical user interface, statistical information relating only to the group of volumes*. In further detail, Applicant's claimed invention, allows a user to group a specific set of volumes from a plurality of volumes to obtain statistical information using a graphical user interface on the specific set of volumes. At least two of the volumes of the group of volumes are stored on separate servers. The statistical arrangement of the group of volumes is then displayed to the user on the graphical user interface. Applicant's invention allows a user to create a group of volumes arbitrarily from the plurality of volumes stored across the plurality of servers and then to display statistical information related only to the group of volumes selected.

In contrast, there is no disclosure in Chu, Pisello, or Manghirmalani of organizing two or more volumes into a group of volume where at least two of the volumes are stored on separates servers. Chu discloses organizing raid groups of a disk array attached to a single computer. There is no disclosure in Chu of organizing volumes from separate computers into a group of volumes because Chu deals with a single computer and does not disclose using volumes. Pisello discloses sending alert to a human administrator

based on a set of rules, but Pisello does not organize volumes from separate servers into a group of volumes for monitoring. Manghirmalani discloses an agent on a concentrator collecting data from a plurality of connected computers and sending the data to a central management computer. There is no disclosure of Manghirmalani of organizing a group of volumes from a plurality of servers and only displaying information related to the group. Manghirmalani does not disclose the use of volumes.

Applicant respectfully urges that the Chu Patent, the Pisello Patent and Manghirmalani Patent, either taken singly or taken in any combination are legally insufficient to render the presently claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 because of the absence in each of the cited patents of Applicant's claimed novel ***consolidating two or more selected volumes of the plurality of volumes into a group of volumes using a graphical user interface, wherein at least two volumes in the group of volumes are located on separate servers of the plurality of servers, ... displaying, on the graphical user interface, statistical information relating only to the group of volumes.***

At page 7 of the Office Action, claims 82, 84, 95, and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Chu, in view of Pisello, and in further view of Manghirmalani, and in further view of Welter, US Patent No. 6,633,912, hereinafter Welter.

Applicant respectfully notes that claims 82, 84, 95, and 97 are dependent claims that depend from independent claims believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 82, 84, 95, and 97 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are dependent from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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